

outer periphery of the pleats and d is the inner diameter at the inner periphery of the pleats. The retainer is disposed around the plurality of pleats. The porous medium comprises a polymeric material or a glass fiber material. The joiner caps are attached to at least one end of each of the two or more pack sections and adjacent joiner caps are connected to coaxially secure the pack sections and joiner caps into a hollow separation arrangement which is at least about forty inches in length and has an interior diameter of at least about two inches. The first and second end caps are attached to the hollow separation arrangement. One of the first and second end caps comprises a seal which has an outside diameter greater than the largest outside diameter of the hollow separation arrangement. The joiner caps and the end caps include a polymeric, thermoplastic or elastomeric material.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21 with:

In accordance with a further aspect, the present invention is directed to a separation element. The separation element comprises a hollow pleated pack and first and second end caps. The hollow pleated pack includes a plurality of pleats, a retainer, first and second ends, and a porous medium. The plurality of pleats includes roots, crowns, legs extending between the roots and the crowns, an inner periphery at the roots defining an upstream side, and an outer periphery at the crowns defining a downstream side. Each pleat has a height greater than $(D-d)/2$ where D is the outer diameter at the outer periphery of the pleats and d is the inner diameter of the inner periphery of the pleats. The retainer is disposed around the pleats. The porous medium comprises a polymeric material or a glass fiber material. The hollow pleated pack is at least forty inches in length and has an interior diameter of at least two inches. Each end cap is connected to an end of the pack. One of the first and second end caps includes a seal having a larger outside diameter than the largest outside diameter of the hollow pleated pack and the other end cap. The end caps include a polymeric, thermoplastic or elastomeric material.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28 ending at page 4 with:

In accordance with a further aspect, the present invention is directed to a separation element. The separation element comprises a pleated pack and an end cap. The pleated

pack includes a porous medium and a first end and has a length greater than about 40 inches and an interior diameter greater than about 2 inches. The end cap includes a first segment and a second segment mounted to the first end of the pack. The first and second segments are arranged to slide with respect to one another. The end cap is extendable from a first position in which the first and second segments are spaced a first distance from each other to a second position in which the first and second segments move away from one another and are spaced a second distance from each other. The second distance is greater than the first distance.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 with:

In accordance with a further aspect, the present invention is directed to a separation element. The separation element comprises a pack, which includes a porous medium and a first end, and an end cap, which has a first segment, a second segment mounted to the first end of the pack, and a sealing member coupled to at least one of the first and second segments. The first segment is slidably engaged with the second segment such that the first segment is movable between first and second positions. In the first position, the sealing member is relaxed, and in the second position, the sealing member is compressed by the first and second segments and thereby energized and has an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the second segment of the end cap.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18 with:

In embodiments of the present invention, a separation assembly may comprise a support cage and a separation element. The separation element is removably mounted in the support cage and comprises a pack having an inner region and first and second ends which include a porous medium having pleats in a laid-over pleat configuration, a retainer arranged with the pack to maintain the pleats in the laid-over configuration, and first and second end caps which are connected to the first and second ends of the pack. The separation element is free of any support structure in the inner region of the pack.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 27 with:

In embodiments of the present invention, a separation assembly may comprise a support cage having a first end and a separation element removably mounted in the support cage. The separation element includes a pack and at least one end cap mounted to the pack. The at least one end cap is extendable to allow the separation element to move from a position removed from the first end of the support cage to a position in proximity to or in contact with the first end of the support cage to reduce loading on the separation element.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3 with:

In embodiments of the present invention, a separation assembly may comprise a support cage having a first end, a seat arrangement, and a separation element removably mounted in the support cage. The separation element includes a pack and at least one end cap mounted on the pack. The at least one end cap includes a seal arrangement which slidably engages the seat arrangement. The separation element is axially movable within the support cage from a first position. The seal arrangement engages the seat arrangement and the separation element is spaced from the first end of the support cage to a second position wherein the seal arrangement engages the seat arrangement of the separation element and is closer to the first end of the support cage.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14 with:

In embodiments of the present invention, an end cap for capping an end of a separation pack may comprise a first segment including a first surface mountable to the end of the separation pack and a second segment including a sealing surface. The first and second segments are extendably connected such that the second segment is movable relative to the first segment.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 with:

Figure 13a and 13b are sectional views of an alternative embodiment of the filter assembly of the present invention.

Figure 14a is a plan view of a portion of a hollow filter arrangement including pack sections connected by joiner caps.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21 with:

Figure 14b is an oblique view of a filter pack having multiple side seals.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 1 with:

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, both the length and the diameter, especially the inner diameter of the filter element may be increased. As shown in Figure 14(a), the longer, larger diameter filter elements are preferably constructed by joining together two or more shorter filter pack sections 216a, 216b using open end cap unions or joiner caps 221a, 221b to achieve hollow filter arrangements 217 with lengths of preferably greater than forty inches and interior diameters of at least two inches, more preferably greater than sixty inches and interior diameters of at least three inches and more preferably about four or more inches. Essentially, as the length of the filter elements is increased, the inside diameter is also preferably increased to reduce the core pressure differential. Depending on the length of the particular filter element and the lengths of the shorter filter pack sections, one or more pairs of joiner caps may be utilized. The two end caps utilized in these longer, larger diameter filter elements may comprise any suitable configuration such as those described above. However, one of the end caps joined to the filter pack preferably comprises a slidable end cap such as the slidable end cap 220 illustrated in Figure 12. The slidable end cap 220 allows for axial movement of the filter element 212 while providing a fluid tight seal via a seal 228 having an outside diameter greater than the largest outside diameter of the hollow filter element 212. The filter pack may comprise any suitable medium such as described above. Preferably, the filter pack comprises a material and configuration which is capable of supporting its own weight, wet or dry, without an interior or exterior support structure even at lengths greater than forty inches. In a preferred embodiment, the filter pack comprises a glass fiber medium having a pleated structure. The pleats may extend radially or they may be in a laid-over configuration as described in detail above.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the indicated claims with:

1. (Twice Amended) A separation element for separating one or more components from a fluid flowing through the separation element, the separation element comprising: